REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 remain in this application. Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended. Claims 5-8 were withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement and have been canceled.

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify that the enhancing peptide is introduced into the alpha synuclein solution that will be tested. Support for this amendment may be found on page 5, line 1 et seq. Entry of this amendment is therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 4 has been amended to correct a typographic error in the first line of the claim. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention has been reviewed. In view of the following comments applicants' attorney respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

In claim 1 the claim has been clarified to more specifically claim the invention. The fluorescence measurements are now taken at 485 nm. The specification indicates on page 4 that the measurements are to be taken at about 485 nm. Therefore this amendment does not introduce any new matter to the application. Claim 3 has been amended to establish the antecedent basis for enhancing peptide. Applicants' attorney respectfully submits that this amendment renders moot the rejection of claim 1-4.

The rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Biere et al. (US 6,184,351) in view of Murray et al. and Levine has been reviewed, however, applicants' attorney respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

The invention as currently claimed utilizes an enhancing peptide to expedite the rate at which assays related to alpha synuclein aggregation can be performed. In Figures 1 and 2 of the present invention the aggregation of alpha synuclein could be followed quite quickly over a

much shorter time course than the prior art methods of assaying alpha synuclein aggregation or disaggregation. This improved time course is believed to be due to the addition of an enhancing peptide.

Claim 1 as amended now indicates that an enhancing peptide has been added to the synuclein solution. Page 5 of the specification discuses the effect of ***separately*** providing synthetic peptides or peptides fragments of 61-90 and 61-75 of alpha synuclein to enhance the aggregation of alpha synuclein solution. As is apparent from the specification and Figures using peptides with at least the 61-75 amino acid residues of alpha synuclein up to peptides with the length of 61-90 amino acids residues of alpha synuclein significantly improves the aggregation rate of alpha synuclein. See page 5 of the specification and Figures 1 and 2.

Biere et al. in Figures 3, 6 and 7 follows alpha synuclein aggregation for hundreds of hours or days. In column 6, line 60 through column 7, line 5, Biere et al. discusses the long period of time involved in the aggregation of alpha synuclein. Similarly, Murray et al. had to continuously agitate at 37 C for 2 days to induce fibrilization to perform the assay described by Murray. Neither document discloses adding enhancing peptides to the solution. Accordingly, applicants' attorney respectfully submits that neither Biere et al. nor Murray et al. suggest or disclose the applicants' invention as claimed. Although LeVine does add that the aggregation of Thioflavine T can be measured at about 485 nm (specifically 482 nm); LeVine does not disclose separately adding enhancing peptides. Therefore, applicants' attorney respectfully that the addition of the enhancing peptide to the assay as described in claim 1 is patentable over the Biere et al., Murray et al. and LeVine.

Applicants respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Hal Brent Woodrow/
Hal B. Woodrow
Reg. No. 32,501

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-2976
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